

The Catholic Parish of **St John** XXIII
Perfection Ave cor Bentwood Tce, Stanhope Gardens

Fourth Sunday of Lent
14 - 15 March 2015

**Our Parish
Mission**

The parish of St John XXIII is a faith community with the Eucharist as its heart. Inspired by John XXIII's prophetic opening of the windows of the Church, we welcome the fresh air of the Holy Spirit, inviting every person to share in the responsibility of enriching the life and faith of our community by sharing their gifts and talents."



Parish Priest: Fr John McSweeney ✉ FrJohn@john23rd.org.au
Assistant Priest: Fr Robert William ✉ FrRobert@john23rd.org.au

Mass Times

Monday to Friday 9:00am

Also Wednesday 9:00am Holy Cross

Primary during school term

Saturday 9:00am, 6:00pm (Vigil)

*Sunday 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am
6:00pm (Youth)*

Baptism 12:00pm *Sunday by appointment*

Reconciliation (First Rite)

Saturday 5:00 - 5:45pm

And after any weekday masses

Parish Office Hours

Tuesday to Friday 8.30 - 4.00pm

Parish Office Contacts

☎ (02)9852 0580 📠 0403 766468 AH

Secretary: Tanya Gatt

✉ secretary@john23rd.org.au

Finance: Mila Llamas (Fri)

✉ accounts@john23rd.org.au

Admin Asst: Jill Franco (Tues/Thur)

✉ admin@john23rd.org.au

Business Manager: John McCartney (*pro bono*)

Devotions & Prayers

Novena Masses

Tuesday 7:30pm

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

First Friday 7:30pm

Sacred Heart of Jesus

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesday 6:30 - 7:30pm

*First Friday 6:30pm followed by
7:15pm Benediction*

Saturday 8:00 - 9:00am (Vocations)

Sacrament of the Sick

First Saturday 9:00am Mass or upon request

Divine Office

Friday 12:00pm with Adoration

Sunday 8:15am

Praise & Worship

3rd Saturday 7:30pm

led by SJ23rd Prayer Group

2nd & 4th Saturday 7:30pm

*led by CRL (Community of the Risen
Lord)*

Friday Prayer Group

*Friday 7:00pm at the Church kitchen
led by Pauline Camilleri*

Evangelicum

Some 'vignettes' from the Saints and other authors...

"The times are bad! The times are troublesome! This is what humans say. But we are our times. Let us live well and our times will be good. Such as we are, such are our times".

St. Augustine

"The world calls for and expects from us simplicity of life, the spirit of prayer, charity towards all, especially towards the lowly and the poor, obedience and humility... Without this mark of holiness, our word will have difficulty in touching the heart of modern man. It risks being vain and sterile".

Blessed Paul VI

"What good is it if the Eucharistic table is overloaded with golden chalices when your brother is dying of hunger. Start by satisfying his hunger and then with what is left you may adorn the altar as well".

St. John Chrysostom

"Consider every day that you are then for the first time beginning; and always act with the same fervour as on the first day you began".

St. Anthony of Padua

"I know now that true charity consists in bearing all our neighbours' defects – not being surprised at their weakness, but edified at their smallest virtues".

St. Therese of Lisieux

"The Bible tells us to love our neighbours, and also to love our enemies; probably because generally they are the same people".

G. K. Chesterton

"We can't have full knowledge all at once. We must start by believing; then afterwards we may be led on to master the evidence for ourselves".

St. Thomas Aquinas



Brothers and Sisters, today is Laetare Sunday, **(the Fourth Sunday of Lent)** when we rejoice that we are now halfway through our Lenten Journey towards Easter.

Let's make certain that we are doing all we can in being faithful to our Lenten Penances and striving to be **people of prayer, fasting and almsgiving** during this Penitential Season.

1. Thanks to Bart Sarlabus and those members of the Parish Council who hosted and led our Ministers' Lenten Retreat last Sunday. It was very helpful. Fr. Robert and I appreciate the presence of so many ministers at this event. We went through most of the procedures for Sunday Mass, and there are a few changes, which we will endeavour to introduce from this weekend on.
2. The Parish Pastoral Council Executive Meeting is this Wednesday from 7:30pm in the Parish Meeting Room. If any members of the Community would like a topic discussed at that meeting, please feel free to email Bart and we will add it to the agenda for discussion.
3. We congratulate Dr. Peter Webster, Principal of St. Mark's College, and Mr Mark De Vries, Deputy Principal, who will be commissioned for their new roles among us at the Diocesan Education Mass on Thursday evening in St. Patrick's Church, Blacktown.
4. Don't forget that next weekend is the Enrolment Ceremony for children commencing the First Holy Communion Program. Parents, please come prepared with a copy of the Enrolment form and a photocopy of your Child's Baptismal Certificate.
5. We are still in need of 5 facilitators for the Sacramental Program. If anyone would like to volunteer for this rewarding ministry of service to the 'little ones' of our Community, please contact Jill Franco, on Tuesdays or Thursdays, in the Parish Office. I am hoping that we will have sufficient facilitators from the parish community, so that parents will be free to participate in the programme with their children running than having to lead a group!

God bless you all. Let us continue to pray for one another.

Fr. John

Parish Pastoral Council Corner

Carry around with you always the image of the suffering Christ. For in the same suffering lies the secret of life, of continuing along the way, of strength, of dignity, and of all those good works which nourish hope and the reward we await from God. – St. John XXIII, 1 February 1959

We invite you to join the Acolytes at the traditional Friday night Stations of the Cross at 7:30 pm or to participate in the Good Friday re-enactment of the Stations of the Cross at Holy Cross School in Glenwood. You may contact Ray Samonte and Father Robert who are working with the Youth Groups on this Lenten event.

We thank all who attended the Lenten Retreat and Refresher Course for all SJ23 Liturgical Ministers last Sunday, 8 March, and especially Fr. John and Fr. Robert who led a very informative and animated session on liturgical practices for our parish.

There will be a “rehearsal” for all rostered lay ministers participating in the Holy Week (from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday) liturgical activities on Saturday, 28 March from 10 am to 1 pm at the Church. We strongly encourage attendance of this important liturgical practice event.

The SJ23 Prayer Group resumes its Praise and Worship Night on Saturday, 21 March. Watch out for more details on this prayerful event.

Thanks to those who responded to our call for hosting of the Rosary Statue this March. We now need host families for April and May.

Lastly, aside from the traditional Lenten acts of almsgiving, prayer and fasting, we ask that you be generous with supporting Project Compassion and our Grand Raffle Draw. After a month, we are happy to report cash sales of \$6k and ticket allocations of \$14k, so we have made good progress but things have slowed a bit and we are still below break-even sales. We also only have 4 weekends to go before the raffle draw on April 12, so we ask you to remit payment of the allocated tickets soonest and pray for your continuing support for this fundraiser!

Have a great week! Bart

2015 Parish Council Meeting Schedule

Executive (*Council leaders*)

18 Mar 20 May 22 Jul

16 Sep 18 Nov

General (*all Parish Council members*)

8 Apr 7:30pm - 9:00pm

St Marks College Staff room

During the General Meeting, our School Executives and Finance committee are also invited to provide updates. ***Parishioners are invited*** to come and be part of this meeting.

Novena Mass to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Tuesday nights beginning with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 6.30pm, Evening Prayer of the Church at 7.00pm, Rosary at 7.15pm, sung Benediction Mass 7.30pm and Novena prayers at 7:40pm.

If you want the opportunity of having the statue visit you in your home contact Bart Sarlabus. Pick up the statue during the novena and return before the novena.

Rosary Statue Family Roster

17 Mar Ramiscal Family
24 Mar Lusica Family
31 Mar Gorkic Family
07 Apr Bacolod Family
14 Apr Padilla Family



President Bart Sarlabus

✉ bart.sarlabus@gmail.com

Council Team Leaders

<i>Community Bldg</i>	Techie Sarlabus
<i>Comms & Media</i>	John McCartney
<i>Evangelicum</i>	tba
<i>Faith Formation</i>	Rose Franco
<i>Fundraising</i>	Rodi Orantia
<i>Liturgy</i>	Ray Samonte
<i>Pastoral Care</i>	tba
<i>Social Justice</i>	Qwayne Guevarra

Diocese News

Positions vacant Receptionist

St Michael's Parish at Baulkham Hills is seeking to appoint a Receptionist for the Parish Office. The Receptionist has responsibility for managing phone calls and visitors through reception as well as an interesting variety of administrative duties. The Receptionist plays an integral role in providing support for the Parish by assisting the Office Administrator to provide services to the Parish community.

For further information about this role and how to apply please visit the ***Employment*** section of the Diocese of Parramatta's website:

www.parra.catholic.org.au

Application closes Friday, 13 March 2015

Executive Assistant to the Chief of Operations & Finance

The Catholic Diocese of Parramatta is seeking applications for the position of *Executive Assist to the Chief of Operations & Finance*. For a confidential discussion please contact Anthony Spata, REACH Human Resources, on 0402 210 055. A copy of the position description is available at www.catholicjobsonline.com.au

Application closes Monday, 23 March 2015

First Reading

Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23

The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of his people.

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 136

R. *Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!*

By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept, remembering Zion; on the poplars that grew there we hung up our harps.

Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

For it was there that they asked us, our captors, for songs, our oppressors, for joy. 'Sing to us,' they said, 'one of Zion's songs.'

Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

O how could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil? If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither!

Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

O let my tongue cleave my mouth if I remember you not, if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys!

Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

Second Reading

Ephesians 2:4-10

When we were dead through sins, he brought us to life.

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ - it is through grace that you have been saved - and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

John 3:16

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!



Gospel

John 3:14-21

God sent his Son into the world that we might be saved through him.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

"The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.

Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believed in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.

On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil.

And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Readings for March

16 Mon Fourth week of Lent

1st Reading Isaiah 65:17-21

Psalm Ps 29:2, 4-6, 11-13

Gospel John 4:43-54

17 Tues St Patrick

1st Reading Jeremiah 1:4-9

Psalm Ps 116

2nd Reading Acts 13:46-49

Gospel Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

18 Wed Fourth week of Lent

1st Reading Isaiah 49:8-15

Psalm Ps 144:8-9, 13-14, 17-18

Gospel John 5:17-30

19 Thurs St Joseph

1st Reading 2 Samuel 7:4-5, 12-14, 16

Psalm Ps 88:2-5, 27, 29

2nd Reading Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22

Gospel Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24

20 Fri Fourth week of Lent

1st Reading Wisdom 2:1,12-22

Psalm Ps 33:16, 18, 19-21, 23

Gospel John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

21 Sat Fourth week of Lent

1st Readings Jeremiah 11:18-20

Psalm Ps 7:2-3, 9-12

Gospel John 7:40-52

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

At the words that follow, up to and including 'the Virgin Mary', all bow.

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Mass Cards are now available for purchase at the parish office

Special intentions

Born to eternal life: Athena San Luis, Baby Tate Lindsay Burley, Arturo Cobarrubias, Nita Fernando, Adrian Hodson

Anniversaries: Mr Sockalingham, Ramon & Magdalena Miranda, Mrs Naomi Raj

For the sick: Felomina Docena, Shona Modrich, Lourdes Subijano, Anthony Joseph, Anthony Subijano, John and Rhonda Devereaux, Cynthia Villafuerte Cano, Marlon Marcelo, Athan G Alvarez, Jovie Disterhoft, Nikhil Parvathaneni, Concepcion Quirane, Florencia Melgar, Angelica Nepomuceno

Thanksgiving: R & J Santos, Ronald Hertz Alvarez

Mass intentions for coming weekday Masses

Mon 16/3 - Edward & Judith Saldanha (*Dec*)

Tues 17/3 - Enrico Finadri, Antonia, Victor, Angelo & Victor Cremona (*Anniv*)

Wed 18/3 - Felipe Villalba (*10th year Death Anniv*)

Thurs 19/3 - Mrs Nita Fernando (*Death Anniv*)

Fri 20/3 - Arturo Cobarrubias (*Recently Dec*)

Sat 21/3 - R & J Santos & Family

Parish Notices

Free morning tea

Every 4th Sunday after the 9am mass
courtesy of SJ23rd Prayer Group

SRE Teachers needed

Special Religious Education Teachers
or Catechists to teach in our State
Schools. Training will be provided.

If you are interested, please contact
the Parish Office

GARDENERS NEEDED

Thank you to the people that take care
of the Church gardens, we need more
volunteers to help if interested please
call Parish Office on 9852 0580.

If you know of anyone who needs help
from our **Community Outreach**
group please contact the parish office

OVER 55'S

Monday March 16th 2015

Ranch Hotel, Epping Road, Epping
12.00pm or 11.00 GCC

For further details call Merrilyn on
9629 4552 / 0413 424 552

The church Choir area platform

needs to be carpeted and we are
seeking the help of a carpet layer or
anyone with the right skills to help
complete this project. Please contact
Father John or the Parish office if you
can assist.

Project Compassion commences

Please take a box or set of envelopes to
generously help the poor and those in
need during this year's Lenten season.

*If you or a family member is homebound and would want to receive communion in your home
please contact the parish office.*

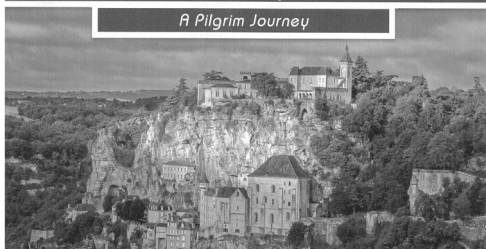
**Don't forget our fundraising
event, Pilgrimage to Compostela
trip for 2 as the first prize.**

**Please support this endeavour
and buy or sell raffle tickets. We
only have four weeks to go
before the raffle date, 12 April,
Divine Mercy Sunday.**



Paris to Compostela

A Pilgrim Journey



Gospel Reflection

St. John reminds us in the Gospel for the Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year B) that “God loved the world so much that God gave His only Son so that everyone who believes in him (Jesus) may not be lost but may have eternal Life” (Jn 3:16).

So, our Father God loves us unconditionally. And we respond in love ourselves to this marvellous gift of grace; we respond in acts of love toward others.

Some, however, deny God’s presence in their lives, severing themselves from Grace. As the author of the Fourth Gospel adds: “whoever refuses to believe is condemned already”. It is our choice to accept or to reject the freely offered gift of Salvation and Eternal Life.

What is played out over and over again throughout life is the tension that exists in each of us: we sometimes succeed in being loving beings, and at other times we fail to imitate Christ and live the Gospel.

But, what is important is, that, no matter how far down the road of rejection we may have travelled, we always strive to turn to face the correct direction which leads to love and salvation.

During this Lenten season of Penance, let’s search our consciences; and let’s recommit ourselves to accepting God’s unconditional love, and the consequences this brings to us who are, in turn, called to be loving beings towards others!

Why we do...con’t

13 is, thus keeping us from pride.

"Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." – *Matthew 18:4*

8. Prayer Grants us the Privilege of Experiencing God

Through prayer we obtain an experiential basis for our faith. We do not ignore the intellect or reasons for faith, but prayer makes our experience of God real on an emotional level.

9. Answered Prayer is a Potential Witness

If our prayer is answered, it can serve as a potential witness for those who doubt.

10. Prayer Strengthens the Bonds Between Believers

Prayer not only strengthens our relationship with God, but when we pray with other believers, prayer also strengthens the bonds between fellow Christians.

11. Prayer Can Succeed Where Other Means Have Failed

Have all your options been exhausted? Prayer can succeed where other means have failed. Prayer should not be a last resort, but our first response. But there are times when sincere prayer must be offered in order to accomplish something.

OPEN DAY

ST MARK'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Wednesday 18th March 2015

4.00pm - 6.00pm

(Tours commence every 15
minutes)

JOHN XXIII CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Tuesday 17th March 2015

9.00am - 10.30am

Our Learning Community

Holy Cross Primary

49 Meurants Lane, Glenwood

Principal: Marina Hardy

☎ (02) 9629 8742

✉ holycross@parra.catholic.edu.au

John XXIII and St Mark's College

160 Perfection Ave, Stanhope Gardens

Principal: Peter Wells

☎ (02) 9852 0500

✉ stmarks@parra.catholic.edu.au

Catholic Learning Centre

160 Perfection Ave, Stanhope Gardens

☎ (02) 9852 0585

✉ elcstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au

www.celcstanhope.catholic.edu.au

12. Prayer Fulfills Emotional Needs

Do we need God through prayer? Yes! We were made to function best, emotionally, in a prayerful relationship with God.

As C.S. Lewis put it, "God designed the human machine to run on Himself. He Himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn, or the food our spirits were designed to feed on. There is no other."

Prayer, then, has its reasons, and they are many.

By Robert Velarde

Focus on the Family

<http://www.focusonthefamily.com>

Paying our debt together

Weekly donations

1st Collection: \$ 2,575.40

Funds go to Priest Remuneration Fund, to support the priests of our Diocese.

2nd Collection: \$ 6,237.05

Loose \$ 2,503.05

PG Envelopes \$ 1,693.00

PG by EFT \$ 2,041.00

Pays parish debt and on going running costs, including wages of staff.

(If you can, please put a little extra on the Second Collection.)

If you would like to be a part of the church's plan giving program, a **green form** is available at the church foyer or contact the church's parish secretary, Tanya Gatt secretary@john23rd.org.au

Why we do what we do.....

Christian philosopher and scientist Blaise Pascal (1623-62) wrote, "The heart has its reasons of which reason knows nothing ... " This article proposes that prayer has its reasons.

Why we pray is important, as is prayer itself. What follows are twelve reasons to pray.

1. God's Word Calls Us to Pray

One key reason to pray is because God has commanded us to pray. If we are to be obedient to His will, then prayer must be part of our life in Him. Where does the Bible call us to prayer? Several passages are relevant:

"Pray for those who persecute you" – *Matthew 5:44* (NIV)

"And when you pray" – *Matthew 6:5*

"This, then, is how you should pray ..." – *Matthew 6:9*

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." – *Romans 12:12*

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests." – *Ephesians 6:18*

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." – *Philippians 4:6*

"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful." – *Colossians 4:2*

"Pray continually" – *1 Thessalonians 5:17*

"I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone ..." – *1 Timothy 2:1*

Prayer is an act of obedience. God calls us to pray and we must respond.

2. Jesus Prayed Regularly

Why did Jesus pray? One reason he prayed was as an example so that we could learn from him. The Gospels are full of references to the prayers of Christ, including these examples:

"After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray." – *Matthew 14:23*

"Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.'" – *Matthew 26:36*

"Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed." – *Mark 1:35*

"But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed." – *Luke 5:16*

"One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God." – *Luke 6:12*

"Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up." – *Luke 18:1*

3. Prayer is How We Communicate with God

Prayer allows us to worship and praise the Lord. It also allows us to offer confession of our sins, which should lead to our genuine repentance. Moreover, prayer grants us the opportunity to present our requests to God. All of these aspects of prayer involve communication with our Creator. He is personal, cares for us, and wants to commune with us through prayer.

"... if my people, who are called

by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." *2 Chronicles 7:14*

Isaiah wrote, "He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint" (*Isaiah 40:29-31*).

Hebrews 4:15-16 reads, "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are - yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Prayer is not just about asking for God's blessings – though we are welcome to do so – but it is about communication with the living God. Without communication, relationships fall apart. So, too, our relationship with God suffers when we do not communicate with Him.

4. Prayer Allows us to Participate in God's Works

Does God need our help? No. He is all powerful and in control of everything in His creation. Why do we need to pray? Because prayer is the means God has ordained for some things to happen. Prayer, for instance, helps others know the love of Jesus. Prayer can clear human obstacles out of the

way in order for God to work. It is not that God can't work without our prayers, but that He has established prayer as part of His plan for accomplishing His will in this world.

5. Prayer Gives us Power Over Evil

Can physical strength help us overcome obstacles and challenges in the spiritual realm? No, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms" (*Ephesians 6:12*). But in prayer even the physically weak can become strong in the spiritual realm. As such, we can call upon God to grant us power over evil.

"For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come." - *1 Timothy 4:8*

"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." – *Matthew 26:41*

6. Prayer is Always Available

This point is covered separately in another article. But, in short, another reason to pray is because prayer is always available to us. Nothing can keep us from approaching God in prayer except our own choices (*Psalms 139:7; Romans 8:38-39*).

7. Prayer Keeps us Humble Before God

Humility is a virtue God desires in us (*Proverbs 11:2; 22:4; Micah 6:8; Ephesians 4:2; James 4:10*). Prayer reminds us that we are not in control, but God

Youth Corner

GTK YOUTH GROUP

(Getting to Know - God, yourself and other)

Age group - School Years 4-9

When: 2nd and 4th Sundays

Where: St Mark's Staff Room

Time: 4.30pm drop off
5.00pm Break open the word
5.30pm Welcomers at mass
6.00pm Youth Mass
7.30pm leave from Church

Contacts:

RJ Samonte raf.samonte@hotmail.com

Ceejay Sarlabus cjsarlabus@gmail.com

www.gtkyouth.com

CRL

(Community of the Risen Lord)

Praise & worship

When: 2nd & 4th Saturdays

Where: Church

Time: after 6:00pm vigil mass

YFC

(Youth for Christ)

When: Meets every 3rd Sunday

Where: St Mark's Staff Room

Time: 1:00pm for Break open the word

6.00pm Youth Mass

Spot the difference

5 differences to be found

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."
- 1 John 1:9



"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."
- 1 John 1:9



God's kindness saves us

Y T N H S K A V R D Y Z P A
 B M S F H L Y V M C K K Y K
 A U O O F A I T H A P O G I
 Z W Z R F U H B Q A Q I O N
 S V N I C O D E M U S S G D
 A V N V H S A V E M L H L N
 J K R T M S I D T G A E O E
 J R U E U A B O V E I H D S
 R G C S O N E T E R N A L S
 O X T Q V W I T W G O O D K
 Q B R A G Y T C P J H J A A
 H K Y B P P E V E R Y O N E
 B H E A V E N G I F T P J I

WORD SEARCH

Above	brag	eternal	everyone
Faith	gift	good	heaven
Kindness	Nicodemus	save	Son

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